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THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

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WEIL, JUST LEFT JAPAN COME.

"A well known manufacturer of the United States, who ranks as one of the world's greatest business men, has just left the house yesterday, bound for the far east, so that if Senator Hitchcock's bill passes England will privately notify Japan that if she wants to seize the present opportunity to attack the United States England will keep hands off."

That is a dispatch sent from London to the New York Americans. The dispatch also said that the English government took "a serious view of the Hitchcock bill," which would prohibit the sale of arms and ammunition to the belligerents of Europe.

Well, let us first observe that when England is ready to "set Japan on to the yellow swan" will find us ready; and then let us look at the matter as it now presents itself.

It would be something, whatever befalls, if England would "keep hands off." That would be better than for her to lay hands on us if she did they would doubtless be used in behalf of her Asiatic ally. Under the terms of the British-Japanese alliance Japan has come to Great Britain's aid in her war against Germany. If the rule works both ways it would naturally be supposed that Great Britain would go to Japan's aid if the latter power became involved in war with this country.

It is difficult to see, though, what England could hope to gain by a war between Japan and the United States. Such a war would not just prove disastrous to Japan in the long run. The military burden on the Asiatic people has already become so great, with a war debt of more than a billion and a quarter piled up and expenses rapidly increasing that the parliament has refused to sanction the latest staggering increase and been summarily dissolved. And the Japanese revenue, meanwhile, have fallen off \$40,000,000 in the last year. A war with the United States would be enormously expensive. It is hardly possible that the Japanese could finally conquer 100,000,000 Americans and levy a war indemnity to cover the expense. The more likely contingency is that, in the end, the Japanese power would be broken and Japan, a bankrupt,emic tributary power of the first rate to one of the second or third.

And it is to England's interest to keep Japan strong. Presuming that the present war should end in victory for Great Britain, the three great brilliant world powers would be Great Britain, Russia and Japan—Saila Russia, potentially the most powerful of them all, and the most dangerous not only to Great Britain but the rest of the world. Germany, defeated, would no longer serve as a buffer state between Russia and the Western world. In such a contingency Japan would be Great Britain's natural ally owing to the logical enmity existing between the Russians and the Japanese. And not to speak boastfully, the friendship of even the United States might not be a thing wholly to be despised—a friendship that should England either actively or passively support Japan in a predatory war waged against the country. For England to play such a game of world politics as must inevitably end in the crushing of the Japanese power and the alienation of the United States would be nothing less than suicidal.

All of which, however, is incidental to the main question. The main question is this: Shall the foreign policy of the United States be influenced or actually determined by British threats to turn loose a yellow race in armed warfare upon our people if the United States does not do as England wishes? If so, then we might as well dismiss our own government, repeal the Declaration of Independence, and pray for autonomy as a dependency of the British empire.

LAST PEACE COME SOON.

Prof. Giuseppe Ferrero, the noted Italian historian who by the way in the present war is an outspoken partisan of the allies, on the last day of the year sent out this message to a world in arms:

"Early peace is imperative from social, moral and economic standpoints. Should the war last six months longer it will produce an immense economic and political calamity, while if the war is ended within a month the consequences could easily be remedied by a few years of an-

enlightened retribution. Unfortunately, this consideration will not have any bearing on the conclusion of peace. Europe's fate seems to be at the mercy of blind forces against which we cannot prevail. Let us redouble our efforts for the triumph of the cause of peace, which is the cause of humanity."

This famous Italian has thus above given utterance biased as he is to a profound truth—a truth that should sink at once into the hearts of all citizens of every neutral nation, and that should appeal with tremendous force even to the enlightened and Christian peoples of the countries that are leaning at the pillars of the temple.

The cause of peace is the cause of humanity."

Not the cause of England—not the cause of France—not the cause of Germany—not the cause of Austria—not the cause of Russia—not the cause of Turkey—not the cause of Japan—but the cause of humanity—the cause of all of them—the cause of all the rest of us children of men, everywhere in the world.

And as the whole is greater than any of its parts, so is the cause of peace, the cause of humanity, greater than the cause of any one, or of any group, of the belligerents. To every true and intelligent American the cause of peace is the cause that should enlisted his full sympathies—sympathies far greater, far nobler, far above whatever sympathy he may instinctively feel for this or that contestants. From the heart of every such American should well up to God the prayer that his own country may do that which will best serve the cause of humanity by promoting early peace.

It is folly to say that the future of civilization rests on the triumph of this group or that of warring nations, and that no price is too great to pay for such an end. It is more than folly. It is the supreme wickedness. The future of civilization rests on France being declared before civilization is destroyed, on peace before German and Englishman, Frenchman and Hungarian, Bohemian and Italian, in one red burial shroud.

Let peace but come, and we can rely on the sturdy Briton, the Christian Frenchman, the deep in the hearts of all these peoples to rededicate the world to noble and nobler uses. The dread and awful lesson of war will have been learned, and that lesson will have sunk deep. War's ghastly fury will be apparent. None will have gained. All will have lost, and lost enormously. The one prayer in every heart that now is inflamed with hate and fear will be a prayer for peace foremost. Before the same awful tribunal our cousin in Europe, who are likewise brothers and cousins of each other, will confess their folly and their sin. They will realize how much greater are their common interests than their differences. They will realize that in humility there is strength, that in union there is strength, and that in peace is there happiness. Their swords will be beaten into plowshares, as we have seen the swords that North and South of our own great republic one held, for four long and bloody years, at one another's throats.

Only good God, let the peace come soon. Let it come before it is too late.

THE RIGHT TO THE SEA.

The Oregonian of Portland, one of the great papers of the northwest, published this significant letter. It throws some light on the subject of the great bivalve now going on in Europe and is food for thought Read it.

"Great Britain, because of her geographical position, her limited territory at home and the necessity for territorial expansion abroad, has, as her overseas interests have increased, gradually grown into the thought that the sea were hers and that she had a right to dominate and control them. Britain has claimed the right to rule the sea, up to the time of the Queen's daughter in the thoughts of her supreme legislation. The October number of the Edinburgh Review, in discussing the British and German question, said:

"If the German government had been given to understand, beyond the mere words of the Emperor, that there could be no friendship or guarantee of an enduring peace between Great Britain and any nation that sought to challenge our supremacy at sea, it is conceivable that it might have desisted from a costly, dangerous and entirely unprofitable enterprise."

It is thus clearly demonstrated what is the immediate cause of the present war, and the cause that may create other wars in future. For the Review plainly tells us "that there could be no friendship or enduring peace between Great Britain and any other nation that sought to challenge our supremacy at sea." In looking for the foundations of permanent peace among the nations, therefore, one of the very first questions to settle is: Is this claim of Great Britain valid, and must it be acknowledged and allowed to stand? Are the high seas hers, and must all the nations

bow to her authority? Or, are the high seas, outside of territorial limits to be owned and used by all men and nations alike and kept free and open to all? These questions must be settled before there can be the most distant chances for peace.

"If any one nation is allowed to control the waters of the earth, that will give it control of the commerce of the whole world, and, in fact, of all other international business relations. It will, in short, make it master and supreme ruler over all. If other nations should send out ships they might be seized and detained, or confiscated, by the supreme power, and there would be no means of redress. The supreme power could make up its own list of contraband articles that might or might not seek transit from one nation to another, and that list must stand, whether fair or foul, for there would be none to dispute it.

"To short, to ride the seas is to rule the earth and its people. Is the United States prepared to accept the view that Great Britain, or any other nation, shall rule all others? Or rather, shall we contend that the oceans, from one continent to another, shall be declared free and open to all, and that dominion and piracy shall be swept from the face of the great waters forever? For it is little short of piracy to seize neutral ships on the great highways of the nations on some trumped up trivial excuse.

"At the close of this war all nations ought to combine, and I believe they will, in a pact to secure their common rights in the use of the waters that encircle the globe. They must do it if they want peace. The oceans ought to be open and free to the max in his cause as to the most formidable dreadnought that was ever built. This is the only past with other nations that I would have the United States enter. In all other affairs my view is that we should deal with the nations individually and in our own way. But here is a common interest that we ought to take part in and assert our strength to the fullest extent. And we ought to assert our rights by what we do. We ought to load our ships with merchandise for foreign nations and if they were interfered with by anybody on the ocean, we should see about it and call them to account. We, too, have some time since lived around this continent and overseas interests, and we ought not to be willing to play second to anybody."

REDS STILL HUNTING FOR AN ISSUE.

In their vain up to date hunt by Republican leaders for planks for a future platform these tireless workers have agreed upon but one, that being for a demand for a tariff board which shall fix tariff rates as they say in a "scientific manner." Then congress will obediently enact the recommended rates the tariff will be taken out of politics and there will be peace, plenty and prosperity.

That plan it might be stated has already been tried out and did not work as these men predicted. President Taft got a tariff board created to investigate costs of production and suggest rates. The board investigated several industries reported that wages were not a reason for high duties, declared many of the duties were more than the cost of production in this country though they professed only to equal the difference between American and foreign costs, and recommended very considerable reductions.

One good God, let the peace come soon. Let it come before it is too late.

AND THE FARMERS MADE HIM RICH.

Chicago Jan 4.—John Roosevelt, multi-millionaire, president of years, Rockwell & Co., was indicted today by a special grand jury investigating tax frauds, for failure to file a schedule in his personal property, which is valued at approximately \$1 million, with the officers of the grand jury. Mr. Roosevelt said was a small and in a statement criticizing the tax laws of the state said he acted on the advice of his attorney.

And this is the man whom the farmers all over Missouri and the West are supporting and have made so rich that he cannot dispose of his wealth. He is the man who when some community which has helped to make him as rich asks for a contribution for some worthy object or cause, tells them that he has no "charity fund." He is the man who never helps to build your roads, your school houses, your churches or your public utilities—and he is the man who admits the charge that he violates the law and then laughs and says that his acts are "not criminal." Try the same game some of your farmers and see—what you will see.

And now the shrewd speculators

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Washington D. C., Jan 4.—Attempts

to get the Senate to make

an inquiry into senatorial cam-

paigns in Pennsylvania and illi-

nois, the request of Senator

Patton, could not be acted on by the

Senate to appear.

We charge that both Pennsylvania

and federal laws were violated in the

expenditure of vast sums on behalf

of Senator Penrose," said Repre-

sentative Ripley, "and that proper re-

present of an ambassador who had an opportunity thrown upon him to do some spectacular work in Paris and who is the most powerful man left of the old Mark Hanna league; a *subversive* prosecutor of criminals in New York City, and Pen-

roseau.

Three congressional defeats and one presidential defeat have not changed in the slightest degree the policies or practices of the Republican party. It is in the hands of the same men as before and the same great interests are behind it. They base their theory of victory in the masses who "voted or straight" for the last twenty years except the one time when Roosevelt received rebuke he did not get a third nomination. These rebels claimed that they were still "Republican" and it is now hoped that they will adopt their old habit of "voting or straight" again. It is pretty certain, however, that a good many of them will not. They have broken the habit and it will be hard to establish it again. But there are a large mass of men who will vote the Republican ticket until they die, regardless of what the platform, or the character of the leaders and condi-

tions.

John Bass, the newspaper corre-
spondent who was shot in the face
while with the Russian army, has no
luck coming. No one forced him to
go over to watch the European fight.

He went for the money that was in it
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